

FBIS 95

## SPANISH FREIGHTER INCIDENT

HAVANA IN ENGLISH TO EUROPE 2010 16 SEP 64 E

(NEWS COMMENTARY: "MURDER ON THE HIGH SEAS")

(TEXT) EVERY DAY DURING OUR NEWSCAST WE READ WHAT IS KNOWN AS FIDEL'S FIVE POINTS--THE FIVE BASIC CONDITIONS RAISED BY THE CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT DURING THE OCTOBER CRISIS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE PEACE WITH DIGNITY IN THE CARIBBEAN. POINT NUMBER THREE CALLS FOR AN END TO ALL PIRATE ATTACKS CARRIED OUT FROM BASES IN THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO. THAT IS ONE OF THE BASIC CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN THE CARIBBEAN. HOWEVER, MANY OF OUR LISTENERS DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND HOW WE CAN TALK ABOUT PIRATE ATTACKS IN THE 20TH CENTURY.

IN OUR NEWS PROGRAM TODAY WE HAVE EXTENSIVELY REPORTED ON THE COWARDLY ATTACK ON A FREIGHTER BOUND FOR CUBA BY MERCENARIES IN THE SERVICE OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. THE CAPTAIN AND TWO OFFICERS WERE KILLED, THE SHIP WAS SET ON FIRE, AND THE REST OF THE CREW HAD TO ABANDON SHIP. BUT THERE IS MORE TO THE WHOLE INCIDENT THAN WHAT APPEARS ON THE SURFACE. LET US ANALYZE THIS NEW ACT OF PIRACY STEP BY STEP.

ON MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, AT EXACTLY 1900 HOURS EASTERN STANDARD TIME, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING NEWS DISPATCH, DATED PANAMA: A CUBAN EXILE SOURCE SAID TODAY THAT ANTI-CASTRO COMMANDOS ATTACKED A SHIP LAST NIGHT IN THE CARIBBEAN. THE A.P. CABLE THEN WENT ON TO SAY: THE INFORMANT DESCRIBED THE SHIP AS A CUBAN-FLAG VESSEL CARRYING SUGAR TO A COMMUNIST COUNTRY, BUT HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE RESULTS OF THE ATTACK.

NOW PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THIS, BECAUSE WHAT FOLLOWS IS THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF MONDAY'S A.P. CABLE: THERE WAS SPECULATION HERE THAT THE COMMANDOS MAY HAVE STRUCK AT A SPANISH FREIGHTER. TWENTY CREW MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH FREIGHTER SIERRA ARANZAZU WERE PICKED UP TODAY. THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE.

THEN--REMEMBER THIS WAS ON MONDAY NIGHT--A.P. STARTED TO PREPARE AN EXIT FOR THE CUBAN MERCENARIES OF THE CIA. IT SAID: SPECULATION HERE WAS THAT THE COMMANDOS WERE AFTER THE SIERRA MAESTRA, ONE OF THE LARGEST SHIPS IN FIDEL CASTRO'S MERCHANT MARINE. HOWEVER, IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH, IT REPORTED THAT THE SIERRA MAESTRA HAD ALREADY PASSED THE PANAMA CANAL AND WAS ON THE PACIFIC BOUND FOR CHINA. FINALLY, THE A.P. STORY SAID THAT CUBAN SOURCES HERE, THAT IS PANAMA, INDICATE THAT EXILE LEADER MANUEL ARTIME WOULD HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE ATTACK WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS FROM A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY.

THE FIRST THING A.P. DID WAS TO DATELINE ITS CABLE PANAMA TO DRAW ALL ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE REAL CULPRIT--THE UNITED STATES. THEN IT POINTED OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY. THE POOR COMMANDOS MISTOOK THE SPANISH FREIGHTER SIERRA ARANZAZU FOR THE CUBAN FREIGHTER SIERRA MAESTRA, ACCORDING TO A.P.

ACTUALLY, THE CHANCES FOR SUCH A MISTAKE WERE FEW INDEED. THE CUBAN SHIP IS A 10,000-TON SHIP, WHILE THE SPANISH SHIP IS A SMALL 1,600-TON FREIGHTER. THE CUBAN SIERRA MAESTRA WAS IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN BOUND FOR CHINA, WHILE THE SPANISH SIERRA ARANZAZU WAS SAILING THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN BOUND FOR CUBA. FINALLY, WHEN A.P. ANNOUNCES THAT ARTIME WILL ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE, IT STRESSES THAT IT WILL BE FROM A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY, BECAUSE IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT ARTIME WORKS DIRECTLY FOR THE CIA, AND A.P. WAS TRYING TO AVOID LINKING THE ATTACK ON THE SPANISH FREIGHTER WITH THE UNITED STATES--ACTING LIKE THE THREE WISE MONKEYS: SEEING NOTHING, HEARING NOTHING, SAYING NOTHING.

(M O R E)

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